

Gospel Oak Weekly Newsletter

w.e. 23rd May 2025



UPCOMING DATES

Monday 2nd June - Envision Final

Tuesday 3rd June - Morgan Stanley Event

Wednesday 4th June to Friday 6th June -
Year 7, 8 and 9 PGL Boreatton Park
Residential Trip

Friday 6th June - Fordhouses Cricket Trip

Tuesday 10th - Monday 16th June - Inter
Milan Sports Tour

Thursday 12th June - Year 10 Parents'
Evening



ASSEMBLY THEMES

Assembly focus this week was Building
Confidence

w/c 02/06 - Term Ahead - Expectations

w/c 09/06 - Attitude to learning

Please take the time to talk to your daughter
and/or son about what
they have learnt in Assembly.

YEAR 7

YEAR 8

YEAR 9

YEAR 10

YEAR 11

SIXTH FORM

LETTERS

COMMUNITY

MESSAGE FROM MISS MIDDLEHURST, SENIOR VICE PRINCIPAL

Today brings to a close a very short and very busy half-term. Year 11 and 13 are well into their external exam season, and students in Y7-9 have been completing assessments in a range of subjects; it is a timely reminder for all about just how important exam results – and thorough preparation for exams as a key component of this – are for life chances. Recent research released from the Department for Education reinforces the significance of attendance in exam results too; students who attended school nearly every day in Year 11 in 2022-23 were 1.9 times more likely to achieve a Grade 5 in English and Maths than students who attended only 90-95% of the time. Every single day in school makes a big difference.

Revision sessions will run for Year 11 and Year 13 students during half-term; please see the letter about this.

Workshops have taken place this week to support mental health and awareness of knife crime, and a fabulous darts' competition in partnership with the WBA Foundation. Our PE department hosted the Trust Rounders' competition, and a very big thank you to our fabulous Year 12 and Year 13 BTEC Sport students who supported with the officiating of this event. I know that many students are also getting excited about upcoming residential opportunities after half term with the Key Stage 3 PGL visit and the Milan sports' tour nearly upon us. The first day after half-term will also see a number of our Year 9 students visit West Brom as part of their Envision activity. All of these activities – and so many more! – play such a key role in helping to prepare students for success in the future.

And, finally, it was an emotional Year 11 Final Assembly this afternoon; thank you to Miss Bott, the Year Team and the students for a lovely celebration of 'all things Year 11'!

There will be delays in responses to Gospel Oak School - Contact Us over the half-term break as staff need a rest too, and please be assured that these will be acted upon in the first part of the week back. I wish you a restful Bank Holiday and half-term break; students are due back in school at 8.25am on Monday 2nd June.

YEAR TEAM UPDATES

YEAR 7

Year 7 Weekly Round-Up: A Week of Assessments, Achievement & Aspiration!

It's been an incredibly busy and productive week for our fantastic Year 7 students, and we're excited to share all that's been going on!

Assessment Week Success

This week marked **Assessment Week** for Year 7 – a key opportunity for students to demonstrate what they've learned so far this year. Assessments are an important part of the learning process; they help us identify areas where students are thriving, as well as those that may need more support, ensuring every child can make progress. We've been incredibly proud of how maturely and responsibly Year 7 have approached their assessments – their focus, effort and conduct have been exemplary. Well done to all!

The Brilliant Club

On Monday, our Brilliant Club students met with Tina for their final session, where they worked hard on completing their final assignments ahead of graduation. The programme has been a fantastic opportunity for students to engage in university-style learning, and they've risen to the challenge brilliantly. We're looking forward to celebrating their achievements at the graduation event soon!

Morgan Stanley Project

On Friday, Year 7 took part in the **Morgan Stanley Project**, continuing their entrepreneurial journey in preparation for the final pitch event on **3rd June**. This week, Mrs Wilkins supported students in developing and refining their business pitches – getting them ready to face the Morgan Stanley "Dragons", as well as our very own Mr Hickinbottom. It's shaping up to be an exciting finale!

PGL Trip – Spaces Still Available!

A reminder that there are still places available for the PGL Residential Trip from 4th to 6th June. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to build confidence, resilience, and friendships outside the classroom. If your child is interested in attending, please contact the **Year 7 enquiries inbox**, and we'll be happy to guide you through the next steps.

Attendance & Behaviour Update

Last week (w/c 12th May), Year 7 achieved **92.44% attendance** – a decent effort, but unfortunately below our school target of 95%. Excellent attendance is key to academic success, positive friendships, and strong routines. We ask for your continued support in ensuring your child is in school every day, unless absolutely unavoidable.

Behaviour-wise, Year 7 collected an amazing **17,453 positive points** – a huge well done! However, we also saw **219 negative points**, which is something we must work on together. Positive behaviour supports a calm and focused learning environment where all students can thrive. Please continue to encourage your child to meet our behaviour expectations and take pride in their contribution to our school community.

Thank you for your continued support. We're incredibly proud of Year 7 and all they're achieving – and we're only just getting started!

Mr Bowser and the Year 7 Team



YEAR 8

🎯 Year 8– Aiming High and Hitting the Mark! 🎯

What a whirlwind of a half-term it's been for our fantastic Year 8s! Though it's been a short one, it's certainly not been short on challenges – and we want to say a massive thank you to all our students and their families for the continued hard work, support, and positivity throughout.

Mr Johnson, Mr Marrs, and Miss Smith are incredibly proud of how Year 8 have risen to every challenge thrown their way. One brilliant highlight – **attendance is on the up!** In fact, this half-term has seen the **highest average attendance of the year so far**. That's a huge achievement – well done, Year 8!

This week also saw some of our students stepping up to the oche in the **WBA Foundation Darts Competition**. With some seriously impressive arrows thrown, their **attitude and behaviour were outstanding** – described as a **real credit to the school**.

And we can't forget a **huge shout out to Charlie Baker**, who has just secured a **sponsorship with Target Darts** – an amazing achievement, and we're all incredibly proud of you, Charlie!

We hope everyone enjoys a well-earned rest over the break – recharge those batteries and get ready for the final stretch before you all become Year 9s! We can't wait to see you back, refreshed and ready to go.

Have a great break, Team Year 8 – you've earned it! 💪🌟

Mr Johnson and the Year 8 Team



YEAR 9

Happy Final Week of Summer 1 Y9 Family! The shortest half term but one of the sweetest with everything we have achieved, wouldn't you agree Team? It has definitely been one full of ups and downs, but let's end this half term by focusing on all of the positives of this week and proving why we are the #BestYearTeam!

The Year 9 Team are incredibly proud of how Year 9 have risen to every challenge thrown their way. One brilliant highlight – **attendance is on the up for us!** Attendance should be a priority for all, it is one of our BASICS and we need to be in school every day in order to succeed and achieve in that 10/10 way! So, what can we do to ensure that happens next half term?

This week saw some of our students stepping up to the oche in the **WBA Foundation Darts Competition** arranged by Mr Mason. With some seriously impressive arrows thrown, their **attitude and behaviour were outstanding** – described as a real credit to the school AND all for a good cause raising as much money as we can! Super proud Year 9!

Following from this, we can't forget a **huge shout out to Charlie Smith** who in preparation for this darts tournament raised an incredible amount of money, close to £400 – an amazing achievement, and we're all incredibly proud of you, Charlie!

It is important to as always praise and recognise our Y9 students who mostly have continued to showcase a great attitude and persona day in day out with the correct 10/10 mindset and attitude in order to succeed and achieve here at GOS. Thank you to you, your parents/ carers/ guardians or everything you have done!

As we look ahead to Summer 2 before the madness of Year 10 begins, the Year Team want to take a moment to say how proud they are of you all for all you do every day, keep up this positive attitude towards learning, 10/10 always!

What more opportunities and experiences can we take Y9 family? Let's wait and see what Summer 2 holds for us but first, next week have a rest, reenergise, focus and come back with that 10/10 attitude that we can't wait to see!

Stay safe, enjoy and see you in a week!

Miss Raltph and the Year 9 Team



YEAR 10

Summer 1 done, can't believe it. We can't thank you enough for all your continued help and support with any concerns. We continue to strive for the very best as we move into Summer 2 and become YEAR 11!!! Please see below any key notices...

Parents Evening

Thank you for everyone who has booked an appointment for parents evening. Please continue to contact us with any issues so the I.T team can correct year10enquiries@gospeloakschool.co.uk. We are aiming for the highest attendance for the evening! The year team will be asking you to please book an appointment.

Work Experience we are down to just less than 50 students yet to have a placement. Please ensure if this is your child they are liaising with the year team to get a careers appointment booked in.

BASICS:

- **Being on time** = We have introduced an escalation process for lateness to tutor. We have been really struggling with building the importance of punctuality to school. We are also emailing home everyday students are late to line up. Please see below new system
First day late = break detention
Second day late = break and 30 detention
Third day late = break and 45 detention
Fourth day late = break and 1hr detention
Fifth day late = Refocus
- **Attend every day** = Attendance is far too low for a year 10 cohort, we need to work together in increasing these numbers and building resilience.
- **Show respect** = Please re-iterate that detentions are not a choice if students walk away, they will be in refocus until 4pm the following day. We have been put into this position and those students have lost valuable learning time.
- **follow Instructions** first time round = Please check homework is being completed
- **Come equipped** = Pens, pens, pens please.
- **Smartly dressed** = Please keep an eye out for ties and breaking shoes this time of year.

Exciting opportunities to look forward to...

Parents Evening Thursday 12th June (Arbor open for bookings)

Police Recruitment Friday 20th June

Work Experience Tuesday 1st – Thursday 3rd July

Miss Malkin and the Year 10 Team



YEAR 11

AM exams

Students in the morning will meet in the theatre at 8.25 and sit on the benches in their tutor groups, they will be able to use this time for revision

During this time students should make sure they have nothing in their pockets, remove their lanyards, remove labels off bottles and hold their equipment. Mobile phones should be in bags and switched off. They should also remove any watches.

Students should come to the theatre knowing their seat for the particular exam which will have been provided to them on their exam timetable. Year team will be provided with a copy. **A copy will be placed on the year team office window the day before the exam by the year team**

When called students will place all belongings in the storage bin and line up in silence

Students will be then walk in silence through to the exam. Additional staff will be directed to support – see overview below

Access arrangement students will be taken by DMO

PM exams

Students should come to the theatre knowing their seat for the particular exam which will have been provided to them on their exam timetable. Year team will be provided with a copy. **A copy will be placed on the year team office window by break time by the year team**

Students should be in outside the theatre back doors by 12:55pm

Students should make sure they have nothing in their pockets, remove their lanyards, remove labels off bottles and hold their equipment. Mobile phones should be in bags and switched off. They should also remove any watches.

Students to sit at the tutor group tables, when called all belongings should be placed in the storage bin and line up in silence.

Students will be then walk in silence through to the exam. Additional staff will be directed to support

Where students do not have exams they are expected to be in their normal lessons or in revision sessions.

Thank you for all your hard work this week - enjoy the half term - get lots of revision done!!

Mr Wilson and the Year 11 Team



SIXTH FORM

Year 12 and 13 students participated in a workshop ran by the Fire service last Thursday. During the workshop they took part in activities and discussions about safe driving and the things that can affect a driver's ability.

We will be continuing to host workshops to enrich students' knowledge and understanding.

The 6th form area will be open on Tuesday during the holidays, please check the schedule for other revision sessions.

A reminder to be logging on and completing your online learning.

We are still taking applications for anyone that would like to join the Gospel Oak 6th Form.

Your sincerely,

Mr Bala
Associate Assistant Principal Post 16



Year 12 student of the week – Hasti
Year 13 student of the week – Varni
Year12 attendance – 92 %
Year 13 attendance – 92 %

Events –

11th June - Year 13 Leavers Assembly
8th - 10th July - Year 12 Work Experience



To: Parents/Carers

Gospel Oak School

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Gospel Oak
Tipton
West Midlands
DY4 0BZ

T 0121 556 1351

F 0121 506 7833

W www.gospeloakschool.co.uk

23rd May 2025

Our Ref: SBO.KH.3288

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: The Importance of Attendance in Achieving GCSE Success

I hope this letter finds you well. As we continue to support all of our students to reach their full potential, I would like to take a moment to share with you some important information about school attendance—especially in the crucial final years of secondary school.

Attendance plays a vital role in your son's/daughter's academic progress and success. National research and data analysis have clearly shown the direct link between time spent in school and outcomes in key examinations, particularly GCSEs.

- Students who attend school 95–100% of the time in Year 11 are 1.9 times more likely to achieve a Grade 5 or higher in both English and Maths, compared to pupils with 90–95% attendance. This amounts to as little as a two-week difference in attendance across the year—but it can have a significant impact on results.
- Even more strikingly, students who attend 95–100% of the time are three times more likely to achieve these key grades compared with persistently absent pupils (85–90% attendance)—a difference of 4–6 weeks of learning.
- Missing just 10 school days in Year 11 can reduce a student's chance of achieving a Grade 5 in English and Maths by around 50%.
- Attendance improvements, even within lower bands, make a real difference: students who attend 90–95% of the time are 1.6 times more likely to achieve a Grade 5 in English and Maths than those with 85–90% attendance.
- For students with very low attendance (below 50%), just improving attendance to 60–65%—the equivalent of an extra 4–6 weeks of school—doubles their chances of achieving these essential qualifications.

These statistics speak for themselves: every day in school matters.

We understand that illness and emergencies can happen, but we strongly encourage you to avoid unnecessary absences and to prioritise school attendance wherever possible. Ensuring your son/daughter is in school consistently not only supports their academic goals but also helps build routines, confidence and positive relationships with staff and peers.

Thank you for your continued support in helping every student at Gospel Oak School thrive. If you have any concerns about your son's/daughter's attendance or if you would like to discuss how we can support your family, please don't hesitate to get in touch with our pastoral team.

Kind regards,



Miss S Bott
Senior Vice Principal

COMMUNITY

Safeguarding News

As we head into the May half term, I would like to wish all our parents and carers a safe, happy, and restful break. While we hope everyone enjoys this time together, we also encourage families to stay mindful of online safety and general wellbeing. Please remind your sons and daughters to use the internet responsibly and speak up if anything worries them.

I have included some useful information below for support and guidance. Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back after half term.

Key Information

- **Working Together To Safeguarding Children** –Click on the link [Gospel Oak School - Community Hub](#) to access the statutory working together guidance.
- Click on [Gospel Oak School - Community Hub](#) to read the May 2025 NHS update on well being for Sandwell parents and carers. There are some interesting reads and useful tips around child development, advice on understanding your child and talking about big world problems.
- **KoothTalks Families - Kooth** is offering free webinars for students, parents and carers. Click on the links below to register for:
 - Helping young people stay safe on smartphones and online - [Helping young people stay safe on smartphones and online](#)
 - Kooth's support for young carers, find out Kooth can provide support – [Kooth's support for young carers](#)
 - Tackling Loneliness and Healthy Relationships - [We're still here over summer: Let's Talk about Loneliness & Healthy Relationships](#)

Free School Meals

As you may already know, in December, 'Free School Meal' food vouchers totalling £60 per child were issued to cover the equivalent of multiple holidays at once. As a decision is still to be made regarding how the Household Support Fund will be spent this financial year, there will be no vouchers over the May Half-term week holiday. We will update you when decisions on the future funding of the vouchers has been made by Sandwell council.

In the event that you need extra financial support during the school holidays, help and advice is available on the Supporting Sandwell information hub at www.sandwell.gov.uk/supportingsandwell

July Reward Trips

Wednesday 2nd & Thursday 3rd July 2025

Please ensure all consent forms for trips taking place on the above dates are returned to either your Year Teams or School Reception as soon as possible.

To clarify, students can attend a trip on each day and for any students that still wish to attend but have not chosen a reward trip then please speak with your Year Teams as we have limited availability on some trips but not all.

Payments for all trips are due by no later than Friday 30th May 2025 and this date cannot be extended.

Please note that we require consents forms for each trip to be returned and full payment or unfortunately, your son / daughter will be unable to attend but will be expected to attend school as normal.



Low Mood WEBINARS!

Join Reflexions online free webinars to learn more about low mood and how to recognise the symptoms in yourself or your child!

Tuesday 27th May	Wednesday 28th May
Low Mood - Children 11+	Recognising low mood in your child
10:00am - 11:00am	10:00am - 11:00am
Via MS Teams	Via MS Teams
Recognising low mood in your child	Low Mood - Children 11+
3:00pm - 4:00pm	3:00pm - 4:00pm
Via MS Teams	Via MS Teams

Aims of the sessions

- To recognise what low mood symptoms look like.
- To recognise when someone/child is feeling low in mood.
- To learn strategies to help you to manage/support symptoms related to low mood.

For additional information or brief sign up form to register your attendance for these events, please email bchft.reflexions@nhs.net

An update on WELLBEING FOR SANDWELL PARENTS & CARERS

From inourplace.co.uk

An NHS learning space developed by psychologists

May 2025

inourplace is funded in Sandwell to provide your family with free access to expert learning about childhood development, wellbeing, brain changes, and much more to help you to connect with your children and make sure they thrive.

Here's a quick round up of what we think is great on [inourplace](https://inourplace.co.uk) this month.

End of term prep for school moves

Adolescence: Emotional health for boys



Moving up

How parents can raise emotional skills development for young boys



A digital hub of resources for parents to help you navigate and support your child to thrive as they move up or start a new school
[\(easy reads and watch digital hub\)](#)

The Child Psychologist and Psychotherapist's view
[\(5 minute read\)](#)

FREE ACCESS

Use the code **SIX_TOWNS** to access these FREE resources at www.inourplace.co.uk/sandwell

The child development and wellbeing course for parents

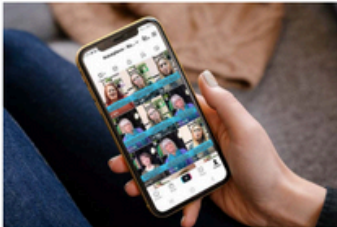
Expert insights for your parenting parents



Understanding your child: from toddler to teenager

Online course empowering your parenting anytime, anywhere

[\(bitesize e-learning\)](#)



Follow us on TikTok

Short films on sleep, toddler tantrums, school behaviour, teenagers and much more

[\(bitesize video content\)](#)

Navigating nightmares and night terrors

Talking about big world problems



My child is having nightmares or night terrors

Advice and guidance from Clinical Psychologists and Health Visitors with parent voices

[\(5 minute watch\)](#)



How to talk to your child about events in the news without making them anxious

The Psychologist's advice

[\(5 minute read\)](#)



Be part of our family

[NEWS](#)

[EVENTS](#)

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Be part of our family

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We're excited to invite your child to take part in The Albion Foundation's Whitsun Half Term Champions League Football Day – a fantastic opportunity for all our Premier League Kicks participants to showcase their skills, represent their teams, and enjoy a fun-filled day of football action!
?? Location: George Salter Academy, Davey Road, West Bromwich, B70 9UW?? Time: 10am-2pm (Registration from 9:45am)

This event is FREE, but spaces are limited and fill up fast, so please ensure you register your child as soon as possible to secure their place!

Participants must be signed up for the correct age group:

- Year 4 & 5 – Tuesday 27th May 2025
- Year 6 & 7 – Wednesday 28th May 2025

?? Please read all the details carefully via the registration links below before signing up.

[?PL Kicks - Year 4 & 5 Champions League Tournament Day - Whitsun Half Term | The Albion Foundation?](#)

??

[?PL Kicks - Year 6 & 7 Champions League Tournament Day - Whitsun Half Term | The Albion Foundation?](#)

??

We want to ensure every child has a safe and enjoyable experience, so registering correctly is essential. Let's make this half term one to remember with some unforgettable football fun!

If you have any questions or need help with registration, please don't hesitate to contact Jordan Hall at jordan.hall@albionfoundation.co.uk.

We look forward to seeing your child on the day!

Many Thanks

?The Albion Foundation



Be part of our family

Supporting the Foundation Family

There are lots of ways to support The Albion Foundation and the wide variety of programmes we run to support our local community. Whether you can spare some money to donate, or some time to fundraise we would be incredibly grateful for your support. Click the buttons below to find out more.

[FUNDRAISING](#)

[DONATIONS](#)



Be part of our family

Sandwell Family Life

...plus much more!
Close to 750 activities listed for children, young people and families!

let's go...

What will you do to get involved?
Helping out in Sandwell is different for everyone.

Have a browse of **over 300** volunteering opportunities in Sandwell

ROUTE 2 WELLBEING

Find out more about what is going on in your local area

Over 700 health and wellbeing activities listed for adults in Sandwell

SCL

Discover your potential

Elevate your skills with exceptional learning experiences!

- Gateway Level 1 in building and construction* SEN Provision Delivering Level 1 Certificate
- In Work Skills and Personal Social Development NCFE Level 2 Diploma in Skills For Business
- NCFE Cache Level 2 Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care

OPEN DAY
THURS 29TH MAY | 11AM - 4PM

- Dudley Centre, 2 Priory Road, DY1 1HH
- West Bromwich Centre, 2nd Floor, Lanchard House, Victoria Street, B70 8ER
- Walsall Centre, 23 - 30 Park Street, Walsall, WS1 1NG
- Wolverhampton Centre, 3rd Floor, Waterloo Court, Waterloo Road, WV1 4DJ
- Construction Centre, Unit 4, Tinsley Street, Tipton, DY4 7LQ

Free, Fun Family Activities this May!
Tuesday 27 - Friday 30 May
For families with children aged 5 - 12

Trampoline Park
Family Games
Horse Riding
Growing your Own
Learn to ride a bike
Swimming

Book online using the website or QR code:
www.bookwhen.com/choices
For further information, contact:
Choices_Sandwell@sandwell.gov.uk
0121 569 5100

Sandwell Choices
HEALTHY SANDWELL
We find the support you need

GO PLAY SANDWELL FREE PLAY SESSIONS

MAY HALF-TERM SESSIONS:
TUESDAY 27TH MAY
10AM-12PM TIPTON LIBRARY (DY4 8SR)
AND
1PM-4PM VICTORIA PARK (DY4 8SD)
THURSDAY 29TH MAY
10AM-12PM GLEBEFIELDS LIBRARY (DY4 0SZ)
AND
1PM-4PM JUBILEE PARK (DY4 0RL)

JOIN US FOR CRAFTS, LOOSE PARTS PLAY, TABLETOP GAMES AND SO MUCH MORE!
ALL GO PLAY SESSIONS ARE FREE, OPEN ACCESS (SO COME ALONG AT ANY TIME) AND DO NOT REQUIRE BOOKING. SESSIONS ARE AIMED AT FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AGED 6-12 AND UP TO 19 WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS.
SESSIONS ARE NOT DROP-OFF SESSIONS.
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT JOHNNY AT:
JOHNNY.LOMAX@GROUNDWORK.ORG.UK
0707872857437 OR VISIT <https://GOPLAYSANDWELL.CO.UK>

Funded by: **Sandwell**
Metropolitan Borough Council

Life & Community
May Half Term Free Activities 2025

Tuesday 27th May & Friday 30th May 2025
10.30am-12.30pm
12.45pm-2.45pm
St Johns Church Hall,
Upper Church Lane, Tipton, DY4 9ND

These sessions are open to
* 5-16 year olds
* Parents/carers to stay.
Younger siblings are welcome

To find out more text 'PLAY' to
07752 659257

Funded by: **Sandwell**
Metropolitan Borough Council

Sandwell Young Carers
Supporting children and young people who care for someone
Tackling loneliness together

Carers Week
9-15th June 2025

YOU ARE INVITED!
WHERE: SANDWELL YOUNG CARERS FAMILY CENTRE
THE OLD VICARAGE
44 BRATT STREET
WEST BROMWICH
B70 8SB
WHEN: THURSDAY 12TH JUNE
2.30-4.30 PM

A chance to see our transformed new rooms!
FREE light refreshments
Raffle

Please book your visit to celebrate National Carers Week with us!
Contact: 0121 525 7667 / 0121 805 1592/ 07922 426 386
sophia.walker@sandwellyc.org.uk
www.sandwellyc.org.uk